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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 006760

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ABRAMS, H, L

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TAGS: [IS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [SZ](#) [GOI](#) [EXTERNAL](#) [ISRAELI](#) [SOCIETY](#)

SUBJECT: EMBLEM: GOI LISTS NATIONS MAYBE WILLING TO SPEAK
OUT IN FAVOR

REF: GENEVA 02903

Classified By: Ambassador Richard H. Jones for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

1. (C) SUMMARY: MFA Director for International Organizations and Human Rights Daniel Meron asked poloff December 2 to pass to the Department a list of nations that the GOI believes might be willing to speak publicly before or during the diplomatic conference in favor of adopting the Third Additional Protocol. Meron also said that the Egyptian delegation in Geneva is leading efforts to re-open the protocol for discussion, a move that Meron said the GOI adamantly opposes. ICRC Head of Delegation Dominik Stillhart reported December 1 ICRC and Swiss Government concern that the Syrians and other OIC countries have already proposed over 10 amendments to the protocol, and said he expects they will propose many more. Their concern about Syria led Swiss government officials, Meron reported, to arrive uninvited at MDA President Noam Yifrach's private residence in Tel Aviv late December 1 to convince him to fly immediately to Geneva to speak to Syrian Red Crescent Society (SRCS) President Abdu Rahman Attar, who arrived in Geneva the same day. Meron said he is confident that Yifrach will not fly to Geneva to speak to Attar, and said that instead Yifrach will fly to Geneva on Sunday night "on the same flight that I am taking" in order to attend Monday's diplomatic conference. END SUMMARY.

NATIONS THAT MAY BE WILLING TO SPEAK OUT IN FAVOR

2. (C) Meron provided poloff a list of countries that the GOI believes might be willing to speak publicly before or during the diplomatic conference in favor of adopting the Third Additional Protocol.

- Africa: Kenya.
- Australia.
- Asia: Japan and South Korea.
- Europe: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Romania, United Kingdom.
- Middle East: Jordan is favorable but cannot speak out.
- North America: Mexico and Canada.

GOI OPPOSES RE-OPENING THE PROTOCOL

3. (C) Meron reported that the Egyptian delegation in Geneva has led efforts to re-open the protocol for discussion, a move that Meron said the GOI adamantly opposes. He said GOI officials are disappointed that Swiss Ambassador at Large for the Emblems of the Geneva Conventions Didier Pfirter has worked to accommodate the demand of the Syrian government that the SRCS reach an agreement with MDA prior to the conference.

4. (U) ICRC Head of Delegation Dominik Stillhart called poloff December 1 to report ICRC and Swiss Government concern that the Syrians and other OIC countries have already proposed 10 to 12 amendments to the Third Additional Protocol, and said he expects many more amendments will be proposed before and during the conference. He said that emblem opponents who can no longer base opposition to the emblem conference on the claim that the timing is not right have begun instead to focus on the substance of the protocol itself.

GOI DOES NOT WANT YIFRACH TO SPEAK TO THE SYRIANS

5. (U) Stillhart also said that MDA President Noam Yifrach told him December 1 that he does not plan to leave Israel in the next few days. Stillhart said he suspects the GOI has pressed Yifrach not to return to Geneva prior to the conference, where he would have the opportunity to speak to SRCS President Abdu Rahman Attar (reftel). As of early December 2, Stillhart reported that Swiss officials had not been able to convince Yifrach to return to Geneva.

16. (C) Meron told poloff December 2 that Swiss government officials arrived uninvited at Yifrach's private residence in Tel Aviv late December 1 to convince him to fly immediately to Geneva to speak to Attar, who arrived in Geneva the same day. Meron said he is confident Yifrach will not fly to Geneva to speak to Attar, and that instead Yifrach will fly to Geneva on Sunday night "on the same flight that I am taking" in order to attend Monday's diplomatic conference.

17. (U) Meron said he was concerned about Israel TV Channel 10 news reports December 1 claiming that Syrian and Israeli government officials planned to discuss humanitarian issues related to the Golan Heights. Channel 10 said that the GOI refuted this report, according to Meron, who also said PM Sharon denied GOI contact with Syrian officials during a news conference December 1.

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JONES